(ix) Technical assistance and advice to food processing industry

Waiver of interest on crop loans to Karnataka farmers

1993. SHRI K.B. KRISHNAMURTHY: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Karnataka Government has sought waiver of interest on crop loans availed by the Karnataka farmers in view of the severe drought in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the amount of interest sought to be waived; and

(c) the action, if any, taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (c) In view of the failure of South-West Monsoon in many parts of the country, Government of India has decided not to effect any recovery of the crop loans, including interest during the current financial year in the affected states including Karnataka. Accordingly, RBI has advised all scheduled commercial banks in November, 2002 that for Kharif 2002-2003, the following reliefs may be extended by commercial banks to the farmers affected by drought, in the districts notified by the State Governments:

i) There should be no recovery of any amount either by way of principal or interest during the current financial year in respect of Kharif crop loan;

ii) the principal amount of crop loan should be converted into term loan an will be recovered over a period of minimum five years in the case of small and marginal farmers and four years in the case of other farmers;

iii) Interest due in the current financial year on crop loan should also be deferred. No interest should be charged on the deferred interest.

De-mutualisation of Indian stock exchanges

1994. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what steps are being taken by Government for expeditious de-mutualisation of Indian stock exchanges;